

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 5-7, and 12 are currently active in this case. Claims 71-92 have been canceled by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Official Action, the objections and rejections from the previous office action were withdrawn, the amendments to the specification were objected to, an election/restriction requirement was imposed. And Claims 5-7, and 12 were allowed.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the allowance of Claims 5-7 and 12.

Applicants also appreciatively acknowledge the courtesy of an interview granted by Examiner Lavaras during the last week of June. The restriction/election, allowed claims, and the filing of a continuation application were discussed.

Applicants respectfully traverse the election/restriction requirement. Applicants respectfully note that, under MPEP 803, even if an application includes claims to independent or distinct inventions, if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, examination on the merits is warranted. In this case, several of the restricted groups are related enough that the examination already administered is sufficient to render a decision on patentability. In fact, many of the claims now restricted have already been examined. Other groups, although technically in a different classification, are also related enough that a single search covering each group and species is not believed to impose a serious burden.

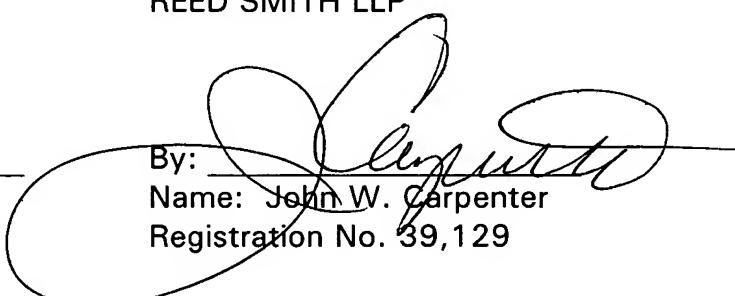
However, in a effort to expedite allowance of this case, Applicants respectfully elect Invention I, species 2 – Claim 12, and including Claims 5-7 (included per the Examiner's notation in 2nd full paragraph of page 9) each of which are already allowed. Applicants have cancelled or withdrawn all other pending claims consistent with this election.

Consequently, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and it is respectfully submitted that this case is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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